

Andrew Jackson to Thomas Watson, January 25, 1804, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO THOMAS WATSON.¹

¹ Watson had been Jackson's partner in the mercantile firm of Jackson, Watson, and Company. This letter seems to show that he left the firm about the end of 1804. Jackson to John Hutchins, Sept. 23, 1803.

Hunters Hill, January 25, 1804.

Sir: On the 18th. Instant I wrote you enclosing a Statement of the cotton Creditted on our Books for the years 1802 and 1803, and noticing the difference between the cotton recd. and the amount freighted and requesting you to State to me in writing how it happens, that there is the difference between the amount freighted and the amount recd. of five thousand three hundred and Eighty Two pounds of neat cotton. I stated to you that this required explanation—however I remain as yet without an answer, from what cause I cannot conjecture. thro all my transactions with you I have dealt in candeur and in Justice as far as my Knowledge extended, your silence indicates a some thing to me which at present I refrain to express—truth and Justice is never veilled in silence, and rest assured that this and this alone I aim at. I stated to you in candeur that I wished this thing settled without the aid of a court of chancery, but that an explanation must take place. I am willing to submit it to the decission of the Gentlemen to whom we referred a settlement of our partnership as it respected a divission of the goods and apportionment of our debts etc, however I am inclined to believe we could adjust this business ourselves provided you would break silence and give your Ideas on this subject—you will recollect that you wanted me to pay mr Coffee half the cotton due him, after you had told him his cotton was in the

Library of Congress

Gin and had not been Bailed for the want of Bailing, and this too long since the dissolution of our partnership. I then stated to you, that if more cotton had been freighted than was credited I would conceive myself bound, for one half the amount that had been freighted more than credited on our Books. The account of cotton recd and credited on the Books, being so much more than that freighted, alters the case and requires investigation. I will Barely state that Ryerson has recd. of our Cotton on your order and for your private use upwards of Two thousand lbs. say 2666 lb neat cotton. I expect there has been delivered to Deaderick and Tatam, four hundred and Two pounds more than there due Bills which makes (If my information is correct) 3068 lb. which leaves a ballance to be accounted for of 2314 lb. neat cotton, and one half of the amount delivered to ryerson and Ballance onaccounted for say, 4980 lb. of neat cotton you will be answerable to me for, unless you can explain and shew that this quantity has been appropriated to the use of the firm. It will afford me pleasure to receive your explanation on this subject, and if it is bottomed on plausibility and Justice it will be sufficient for me. I hope you by this time think with me that I have no right to account to Mr Coffee for one half the cotton that you stated to him has been in your gin house all year and is still there. I shall expect an answer to day or I shall conclude that your silence is intended as an invitation into a court of chancery, which shall be accepted off, however I am candid when I state to you that I wish to avoid such a process unless compelled into the measure by your conduct. I am yours etc etc